

VERY SHALLOW RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on nearly level to undulating outwash plains and terraces. Slopes are commonly from one to six percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are very shallow soils over sand and gravel. They are medium to moderately coarse textured soils underlain by sand and gravel at about 10 inches or less. They are excessively drained. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is very low.

- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Coes loam and sandy loam
Sioux loam and gravelly loam

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. This site is dominated by cool-season midgrasses and has a more sparse stand of vegetation than the shallow range site. Principal plants are needleandthread, western wheatgrass, blue grama, and upland sedges. Other species are prairie junegrass, prairie dropseed, bearded wheatgrass, plains muhly, and red threeawn. Forb species make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Shrub species occur in minor amounts on this site.

- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of needleandthread, western wheatgrass, plains muhly, prairie dropseed, and prairie junegrass. Species that increase are blue grama, red threeawn, sand dropseed, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges.

Further deterioration of the site results in a dominance of blue grama, red threeawn, Kentucky bluegrass, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs and shrubs.

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 650 to 1000 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Very Shallow Range Site

- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	<u>Mean Productivity</u>	
	<u>lbs/acre</u>	<u>% composition</u>
Grasses		
Needleandthread	288	35
Western wheatgrass	83	10
Blue grama	83	10
Prairie junegrass	42	5
Plains muhly	42	5
Red threeawn	41	5
Sand dropseed		
Prairie dropseed		
Bearded wheatgrass	41	5
Kentucky bluegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Threadleaf sedge	82	10
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Western yarrow		
Green sagewort		
Rush skeletonplant		
Dotted gayfeather	82	10
Purple prairieclover		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Broom snakeweed		
Prairie rose	41	5
Other shrubs		
Total	825	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing but has a low stocking rate potential. The best seasons of grazing are for summer and fall.

3--Very Shallow Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site is used by the white-tailed deer for forage. Upland birds commonly found are the chestnut-collared longspur, lark bunting, meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, and upland plover.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. The varied topography of this site adds to the scenic beauty of the landscape. Recreational activities are hunting, hiking, and horseback riding.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from this site in excellent condition is slow to medium depending upon slopes. Water transmission rate of the soil is moderate.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS

